

March 23, 2009

S 753. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE COMM/COORDINATE FUNDS. Filed 3/23/09. *TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE STATE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION, TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL ALSO SERVE AS LEAD COORDINATOR FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IN NORTH CAROLINA, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE COMMISSION TO HIRE A PERMANENT STAFF TO ASSIST WITH THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.*

Amends GS 159G-65(a) to expand the duties of the State Water Infrastructure Commission (Commission) to include (1) compiling and maintaining a baseline inventory of the state's water and wastewater infrastructure, and (2) coordinating the funding for water and wastewater infrastructure provided by federal, state, and local government agencies and non-state entities.

Amends the catch line to GS 159G-66 to reflect the additional duties of the Commission, and authorizes the Commission to have rule-making authority. Delineates additional duties of the Commission in serving as lead coordinator for determining water and wastewater infrastructure funding needs in the state. Enacts GS 159G-66.1 to provide for the hiring of an executive director and other staffing by the Commission. Amends GS 159G-67 regarding the Commission's annual report, requiring that a copy also be provided to the General Assembly (was, to the Environmental Review Commission and the Fiscal Research Division), and that beginning November 1, 2012, the report is also to include a status report on the implementation and maintenance of the statewide strategic plan for the state's water and wastewater infrastructure developed pursuant to GS 159G-66 as amended.

Enacts GS 159G-68 to require any other state agency or entity that receives state funds to fund state water or wastewater infrastructure to cooperate with the Commission in using and disbursing those funds pursuant to a statewide strategic plan for the state's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Appropriates \$500,000 for 2009-10 and \$500,000 for 2010-11 from the General Fund to the Office of the Governor to be used to employ staff, provide operating expenses, and implement the act.

Effective July 1, 2009.

Intro. by Clodfelter.

GS 159G, APPROP